Communications Failure

Navy Flying Club Safety Brief
July 13, 2004

Introduction

Regulations regarding loss of communications focus mostly on flights in instrument conditions.

IFR communication rules are listed in FAR 91.185.

But...

...What if you're flying VFR?

Communications Failure

CAUSES

- **Radio failure (Transmitter or Receiver)**

- **Circuit breaker failure**

- **ATC Radio transmitter failure**

- **Being given a "dead" frequency by ATC**

- **Unfamiliar with communications equipment in aircraft**

- **Dialing in the wrong frequency**

Communications Failure

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS

- ➤ **Fly the airplane**

- ➤ **Check the volume controls and audio-panel setting**

- ➤ **Check for a stuck microphone button**

- ➤ **Check circuit breakers and electrical system gauges**

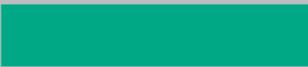- ➤ **Tune a nearby voice-capable VOR and turn up the volume**

Communications Failure

Operations at Tower Controlled Airports

- Fly to an established VFR reporting point
- Circle while squawking a 7600 transponder code
- Fly to the airport at 1,500 feet above ground level
- Circle 500 feet above pattern altitude, dipping wings back and forth in front of the tower
- Wait for a green light-gun signal from the tower
- Proceed as instructed

Communications Failure

ATC Light Gun Signals

COLOR	ON THE GROUND	IN THE AIR
(steady green)	Cleared For Takeoff	Cleared To Land
(flashing green)	Cleared For Taxi	Return For Landing (to be followed by steady green)
(steady red)	Stop	Give Way To Other Aircraft and Continue Circling
(flashing red)	Taxi Clear Of The Runway	Airport Unsafe, Do Not Land
(flashing white)	Return To Starting Point	Not Applicable
(alternating red and green)	Exercise Extreme Caution	

Conclusion

➢ **Familiarize yourself with the communications equipment in the aircraft you are flying**

➢ **Perform a "radio check" prior to takeoff**

➢ **Periodic Review of communications failure procedures**

➢ **Carry a handheld transceiver as a backup**

Wrap-Up

- ➢ **Questions?**

- ➢ **Comments?**

- ➢ **Suggestions?**